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Extendicare-Haliburton offered their annual trick or treating on Halloween night, which was a nice opportunity to take a break from the rain. /TIM YANO staff photographer

Head Lake footbridge to be reassessed

ADAM FRISK
Journalist

The footbridge at Head Lake Park will be reassessed while council looks at replacement alternatives after receiving the final draft of the proposed new bridge design.

Hoping to "get this thing put to bed," Dysart Mayor Murray Fearrey and council members directed staff to conduct a structural evaluation of the current footbridge that spans the Drag River at Head Lake Park, while the municipality considers alternatives. The move comes after the final cost of the proposed design ballooned to nearly $600,000.

see DYSART page 14

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MP Jamie Schmale stands with community leader Andrew Hodgson, who was recognized as Highlander of the Year during the Oct. 24 Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce awards. /photo by Darren Lum

Hodgson highlighted as Highlander of the Year

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

For Andrew Hodgson, Haliburton has always been home.

If you've spent any time in our neck of the woods, it's likely that you've encountered something that Hodgson has been affiliated with. Whether it's attending the school that was named for his father, experiencing live music at the band stand in Head Lake Park, or finding your footing in a new home that he helped you secure, he's tied to the community in countless ways.

And for the most recently named Highlander of the Year by the Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce at their annual awards night on Oct. 24, it's an honour to represent his favourite place in the world.

"We have a really great community," he said during a recent phone interview. "I know some of the past recipients of this award, and everyone is very exceptional. I'm quite humbled and very honoured to be included in that list."

Hodgson can trace his ties to the community back to 1865. And with his mom from Minden and his dad from Haliburton, volunteerism was always on the forefront for both parents, as well as grandparents down the line. "I have all kinds of family members who have been involved in the community," he said, referencing aunts, uncles, cousins, and grandparents on both sides. "They always volunteered, and I am always proud of our family connection to the community."

Hodgson's dad, John Douglas Hodgson, was the first director of education for the county of Haliburton. He got his start in a humble one-room school house on Harburn Road, where he was invited to teach when he was just barely in Grade 11, recalled Hodgson with a laugh. This is just one of the many examples that Hodgson has that emphasize his deeply woven community spirit.

A spirit he carried with him when he left the community. "I grew up here," he said, noting his years at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School, "but I left for 20 years. I had to make a living."

Hodgson worked with the Lindsay Beer Store for a decade before beginning volunteer work with his brother, Chris Hodgson, as he entered the world of politics.

With his small-town charm and quick wit, Hodgson went far in politics as a campaign manager, running leadership campaigns for John Tory and other notable figures before realizing that he needed to reconnect with his roots in Haliburton.

"I was up here every weekend," he recalled, "and I dreaded having to go back to the city. Even when I was gone, I was always from Haliburton."

After 20 years away, Hodgson knew one thing when he returned to home ice: he wanted to make a difference in the community that raised him. Following the heels of his family members and their dedication to giving back, Hodgson chose a number of organizations to jump into. "When I was a kid here, everything good in this community was because of Rotary," he said. "So that was the first thing I did. I joined the Rotary Club."

> ***What I love about this new Haliburton is that there are lots of opportunities to make a living here now. There's something for everyone, and we can do it right here at home.***
>
> — Andrew Hodgson

And he never left. He was the president for a chapter, during which time, the former band shell was removed, and Hodgson secured funding and volunteer partners to erect the new facility; a much-photographed destination in the Haliburton Highlands. "It makes me very proud that there's someone using it every time I'm in the park," he said.

But that's not all he's done. He's the chair of the Haliburton County Development Corporation; another board he's been affiliated with for nearly two decades. He's also assisted with flood relief in Minden, the police services board, and the board for Sir Sandford Fleming, to name a few.

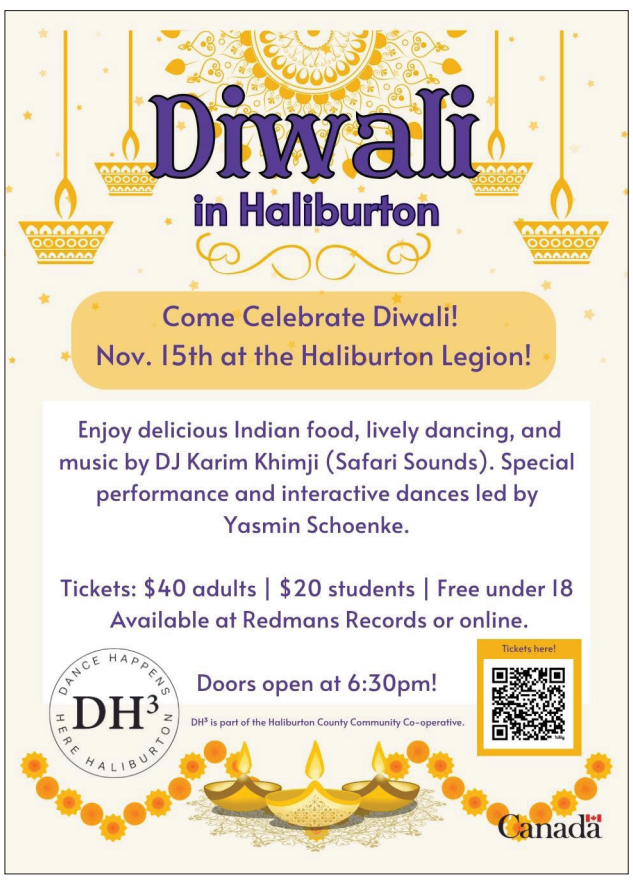
"I don't think this was a one-year award," Hodgson chuckled. "I think it's an accumulation of my time here."

Now that he's been back to his hometown, he has no plans of going anywhere else. "I'll never leave here," he said. "I like our community now more than ever."

And as he reflected on the days of needing to leave in an effort to find his footing in the career world, he believes that it's a different world for that now, as well. "I needed to make a living," he said. "That's why I left. But what I love about this new Haliburton is that there are lots of opportunities to make a living here now. There's something for everyone, and we can do it right here at home."

Having been in real estate for 19 years this fall, Hodgson noted that faster internet and phone speeds assist in connecting people to urban centres, allowing for people of all ages to work remotely in a place like Haliburton. "It's really a great community," he said. "There's so many great things happening, and we should all be proud that this is our home."

Because for Andrew Hodgson, Haliburton has always been home.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Local businesses ‘uneasy’ after second string of break-ins

ADAM FRISK

Journalist

A recent surge in break-ins, including two incidents in as many weeks at one location, has local business owners on edge and calling for increased public safety measures.

Kelsey Redman, owner of Redmans Records on Highland Street in Haliburton, said she is now constantly checking the shop’s security cameras remotely after being broken into twice last week, describing a persistent feeling of stress and vulnerability.

“It makes me uneasy to the point I’m checking my security cameras when I’m at home,” the owner shared in a recent interview. “I just find myself randomly checking and then getting stressed out looking at my shop when I’m away, and just thinking it could happen at any time. Like, is a window going to get smashed? Is someone going to break in another way?”

In an emotional video posted to social media, Redman said her shop was robbed on the evening of Oct. 19 and again on Oct. 21.

“I just want to put it out there that my shop… was robbed Sunday night and Tuesday night,” she said in the video. “By the same person, I know who it is. All caught on video, and I’ve heard that there have been more robberies downtown, so I just wanted to spread the word.”

Redman said she provided the security footage to the Ontario Provincial Police. On Oct. 28, police issued an arrest warrant for a 29-year-old resident in connection with three break-ins. The male suspect faces charges of three counts of break and enter and three counts of theft under $5,000.

The arrest warrant came the same day police said a cannabis shop on Highland Street was broken into just before 1 a.m.

“The investigation revealed that sometime overnight, one unidentified individual forcibly entered a property and stole a quantity of cash and cannabis products from the business,” police said in a press release.

Authorities said a suspect was arrested later that day. Police confirmed to this newspaper on Thursday that the detained individual was the subject of the arrest warrant related to the three previous break-ins.

Redman said the fact that the suspect who broke into her store was a resident challenges the common assumption that property crimes are solely committed by individuals from outside the community.

“I think often people immediately go to who came in from the city who did things, and the last handful of things I know that have happened have all been people who grew up here,” the owner said.

Redman said the items stolen from the shop included clothing. She speculated on the motive, wondering if the theft was an act of necessity, perhaps for housing or food, but also noted the suspect’s behaviour suggested opportunism.

“I think it’s a mix of things. I think he just knew he had time. So he went shopping and looked through every T-shirt and picked out his size,” she said, adding that the suspect was a previous customer who was familiar with the store’s inventory.

Several businesses said the rash of break-ins had been top of mind for staff last week, with some stores altering how they close up at night.

“We’ve switched a few of our practices, just being a little more diligent with how we close up,” Scott Swaga of Algonquin Outfitters said. “Just being a little smarter with how we lock up and a little safer, like leaving in groups even.”

When asked what might help deter future incidents, Redman pointed directly to the need for municipal-level street cameras. The concern stems from a recent vehicle theft in downtown during lunch hour, where no public video footage was available.

“I just wish there was something in that sense so that there was obvious video proof,” she said, noting her personal security footage was crucial in identifying the suspect in the latest break-in. “My video showed everything.”

First poppy of the season

Dysart Mayor Murray Fearrey received the first poppy in the community on Oct. 31 from Branch 129 Legion President Mike Waller. Poppies will be available across the county until Nov. 11, with proceeds from the campaign going directly towards Veterans and their services. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

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Minden Community Food Centre achieves national accreditation

The Minden Community Food Centre (MCFC) is proud to announce it has been officially accredited through Food Banks Canada's Standards of Excellence - a recognition awarded to fewer than 200 food banks nationwide.

This prestigious accreditation highlights the MCFC's commitment to excellence in governance, food safety, client care, and community service. The rigorous standards ensure food banks across Canada are accountable, transparent, and continuously improving to better support their communities.

"We are honoured to receive this accreditation," said Jim Wilson, Board Chair of the Minden Community Food Centre. "It validates the hard work of our staff, volunteers, and community partners who strive every day to ensure that no one in our community goes hungry."

The Food Banks Canada Standards of Excellence provide a framework for improving operations and strengthening the collective impact of food banks across the country. Accreditation signals to donors and community members that the Minden Community Food Centre upholds the highest standards in the fight against food insecurity.

The Centre extends its gratitude to Manager Jean Munroe, Board Member Cathy Hughes, consultant Greg Lewis, and the Food Banks Canada team for their contributions and guidance throughout this process.

About the Minden Community Food Centre

The Minden Community Food Centre is a vital resource for residents of Minden Hills and surrounding areas, offering emergency food support, nutrition education, and community programs that foster dignity, inclusion, and well-being. Through collaboration and compassion, MCFC continues to address the root causes of hunger and build a stronger, more resilient community.

Submitted

Remembrance Day Services

Haliburton Legion:

Tuesday, Nov. 11, 10 a.m.

Short pre-service is being held by the Legion's chaplin, Garry Swagerman, in the Remembrance Hall at the Legion

10:30 a.m. Wreath sponsors may walk in the parade if they so choose, the wreath will be at the Cenotaph for them to lay

10:35 a.m. Parade from the Haliburton Legion to the Cenotaph

10:50 a.m. Cenotaph ceremony

Noon Please join us back at the Legion in the Remembrance Hall for light refreshments and to see the Remembrance Youth Contest entries on display

Club Room will be closed for Remembrance Day

Any person or organization wishing to lay a Remembrance Day wreath, please contact the branch at 705-457-2571, leave a message for Christina Briggs or email rcl129@outlook.com. Cost to sponsor a wreath is $40 (Lest We Forget) or $50 (personalized wreath), cut off date is Saturday, Nov. the 8 by 6 p.m.

Kinmount Legion:

Service at the Cenotaph on Tuesday, Nov. 11 at 11 a.m.. A free luncheon will be held at the Legion afterwards.

Gelert:

Service at the Gelert Cemetery on Tuesday, Nov. 11 at 1 p.m.

Gooderham:

Service at the Cenotaph on Tuesday, Nov. 11 at 3 p.m.

Minden Legion:

The Service will commence at 10:45 a.m. on Tuesday, November 11 with the Act of Remembrance and reading of the County Honour Roll at 11 a.m., followed by the Wreath Laying ceremony and closing remarks.

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Arts Centre moves ahead with building plans

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Editor

On their newly purchased property, the Haliburton Highlands Arts Centre Foundation is moving ahead with their plans for building a world-renowned, multi-purpose arts facility.

In a deal exchange that was finalized on Oct. 17, co-president of the organization, Michael Clipperton, paid one dollar for a 4.5 acre piece of property off Wonderland Road in Dysart. The land was donated by the township, with the stipulation that the not-for-profit organization would have 30 months to navigate planning approvals, with the build required for five years from the purchase date.

On Oct. 30, the foundation hosted a public open house at Pinestone Resort prior to their AGM. The purpose of the event was to garner feedback from the community on the potential build, which is currently hovering with a price point of approximately $30 million.

"We want to make sure we are proposing a site that is welcome to the community," said Amanda Timmermans, a planner with DM Wills, the consulting firm hired to move ahead with the zoning applications.

Currently, the property is zoned institutional, as it was slated for a retirement home destination before those plans moved elsewhere during a previous term of council. The land has sat dormant since, but Timmermans and her team are in the process of rezoning the space to accommodate the large-scale auditorium with on-site housing planned for the land.

The housing component to the site is a fairly new add-on to the plans, but Clipperton believes that there would be value to the new addition. "Travelling performers don't have any housing," he noted. "There's nowhere to stay when those performers come to town, so it would be visiting artist housing with multiple suites."

Clipperton also noted additional funding opportunities that may become available if housing is added to the mix.

Currently, the organization is seeking private donors to move ahead, with funding coming from Canadian Heritage to cover the costs for the feasibility study. "We've also had excellent support from Canoe FM, HCDC, Rotary, and Home Hardware," noted Clipperton.

But there is still a ways to go before Haliburton County becomes "the Nashville of the North," as one attendee of the open house noted. "This is just the first step in the public consultation stage," said Timmermans. "So far, the focus has been on working with the arts community, but this process will move us into the public consultation step."

And the open house provided individuals with an opportunity to provide some feedback. Timmermans noted that a few areas of concern surrounded capacity for the sewage system, the water supply to the new build, and traffic around Wonderland Road.

"A left turn lane onto Wonderland Road was suggested through the traffic study," said Timmermans, referencing the turning point off County Road 1 to access the residential road.

The concerns around traffic stems from the site proposing a 400 seat build, and able to accommodate twice the capacity as the current Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion. "That's the ideal number from our research," noted Clipperton. "Many touring artists will not play for less than 400."

Step one in the process was the Dysart land acquisition, and they now hover in the public consultation stage. Next step for DM Wills is to complete the zoning application, which will then offer an additional public meeting before heading into council approval for the rezoning. That would then be followed by engineering and detailed design work, site plan approval, and construction of the site.

"I'm hearing from the studies and research that there is a big community need for a bigger theatre," said Timmermans. "This is an amazing project to work on. They have done their research here."

ATAC receives not–for–profit status

In mid-August, many hours of hard work successfully culminated in Aging Together as Community (ATAC) becoming incorporated, and receiving our not-for-profit designation. This will enable us to broaden our base of community support and will offer so many more opportunities for funding, as we move forward into the future.

As a new not-for-profit organization, with a history of advocacy and fostering community connections, we are looking for motivated individuals to volunteer in an area that speaks to your interests, values and those of ATAC. Do you enjoy: event planning? Board Governance, participating in Working Groups? Fundraising or writing grants? To name a few. Not all roles are time intensive and may easily fit your schedule. Our events bring together young and old who believe that aging is an important community discussion that needs planning and finding creative solutions together. If ATAC is an organization that you would like to learn about or get involved in, please call Bonnie Roe at 705-457-6579.

Please join us as we kick off our upcoming fundraising campaign!

ATAC Chili FUN Raiser and Not-For-Profit Celebration

- Sunday, Nov. 23, noon to 3 p.m.
- Haliburton Legion
- Suggested donation: $20 + or 'pay as you can'
- To book please email atachhevents@gmail.com
- Call 705-879-9412 or use this easy Zeffy link: www.zeffy.com/en-CA/ticketing/chili-fun-raiser
- Guest Speaker: Dr. Nell Thomas at 1:30 p.m.

Love, Vitality and Value: The Legacy of our Elders

- Entertainment: Mixed Bag, featuring Dave Bathe and George Porter, and Gary Baumgartner

We have one other important fundraiser coming up on Dec. 2. Stay tuned for more information to see how you can support ATAC.

Submitted

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Editorial

Real

THIS WEEK, the paper is filled with some very real stories.

And I don't mean real in the sense that they are true and accurate (thought I do hope they are), but rather, real in the way they make us feel.

We are living in an age of artificial intelligence (AI). On every email I send, I am given a prompt for words to write (I refuse to use the suggested texts). On every photo of my kids I send through to a group chat with my book club, I'm asked if I would like to edit with AI (my kids need no edits).

Even in our production of this paper, there is a tool recently implemented through an update that summarizes each and every page, scanning for irregularities.

Emily Stonehouse

I don't believe these tech enhancements serve any true purpose other than simplifying the tasks right in front of us. And while some forms of technology are available to streamline our efforts, I don't believe we need others that just dumb us down.

Because in this paper, I see colour, I see chaos, I see rawness and vulnerability and the abstract concept of being a human in a world that's ever-changing.

This week, we have a clown who has dedicated her life to bringing joy to others. An experience on a movie set with lights and makeup and magic. A nod to a local Highlander of the Year, who has spent his life building up this community, brick by brick. A photographer committed to bringing his adventures to life for all to see. Images of kids of all ages dressing up and playing pretend on Halloween.

It's real. This community is real. This life in front of us is real.

And I am constantly discouraged by the inundation of AI in this world. Perhaps it may seem odd that I have chosen a topic for an editorial that is not directly woven into this paper, but it occurred to me that it's always there, lurking in the background.

Every day I get the email prompts. The push badges to edit photos of my friends and family. The questions around whether something is real or fake.

And I used to be relatively decent at telling the difference. But the bots have advanced, and sometimes even the most trained eyes can miss the signs.

I know I'm not alone. Dr. Nell Thomas will be leading the next Speakers Series on the topic on Nov. 12 at the Fish Hatchery. Our own columnist, Erin Kernohan, writes about it often in her *Humans and Technology column.*

We can't ignore its constant presence. But what we can do, in an effort to fight against the current of AI, is find the things that are real. The people in our community. A country uniting around a baseball game. Art. Music. Theatre. Poetry. The efforts those around us make during peak volunteer seasons. The feeling of giving back, and brightening someone's day.

Like any new technology, perhaps there is a time and a place for AI, and some advances it can make to simplifying everyday tasks.

But when you simplify life, the nuances are dropped. The mess, the magic, the colour, the chaos. The things that make the world vibrant, different, bold.

Let's not get caught in the current of AI.

We need to go against the grain.

We need to keep creating.

We need to be real.

Poke, Peel Pair, Ponder

Fay Martin

A lost generation

JONATHON HAIDT'S book, *The Anxious Generation: how the great re-wiring of childhood is causing an epidemic of mental illness,* has been on the *New York Times* top ten list for months. His thesis is that the combination of over-parenting our children in the real world and under-parenting them in the digital world has led to the severe injury of children, primarily by creating the conditions under which children do not develop the skill of managing fear. Gen Z (born '81-'95) are particularly impacted because they were born with an iPhone in their hands, enveloped in the digital world at crucial developmental points. This leads to negative, gender-differentiated outcomes (with, of course, individual variation), but too many Gen Zs crumble, beginning at puberty, into anxiety, insecurity, depression, ennui, and failure to launch.

The irony Haidt exposes is that we over-protect in the real world, which is as safe as it has ever been, and under-protect in the digital world, which is a lawless land of evil. He draws attention to the dramatic increase in age and decrease in the amount of time when children are supervised as protection from perceived danger. I expected my children to walk to kindergarten alone or with older children; if now I sent my grandchildren of a similar age to play outside without an adult present, I'd likely be having a chat with child welfare officials.

The requirement for children to be supervised increases parenting time, at a time when economic survival requires two working adults per family. The gap is bridged by offering digital entertainment. Increasingly, however, screen time is designed to be addictive and the screen goes from a pleasant distraction to a preferred/required activity. Three-year-olds scream in frustration when their screen is removed; teenagers hooked to their screens all night threaten drastic behaviour, even suicide, if screen time is denied. (An article in the Oct 25-26 *New York Times* - I'll bet the writers are not parents - suggests parents sit with their teen boys for the average ten hours a week they spend gaming to monitor and educate about the risk of such behaviour. If you can't beat 'em, join 'em?)

The damage to the developing brain comes directly and indirectly. Digital stimulation wires the developing brain in ways quite different than human interaction; the physiological foundation to learning is changed. Then there's 'opportunity cost': because the child is not engaging in other activities while they are on their screen, they are not exposed to the learning offered by human interaction, particularly unsupervised play (which we used to accept as the work of childhood). Essential social skills - attunement (reading others), synchrony (behaving in concert with others), conflict resolution, rule-making, etc. – have no opportunity to develop. Humans have an unusually prolonged dependency because we are social animals, and it takes time and neural readiness to absorb the requisite skills.

The human brain develops most quickly in the first few years of life, and again at puberty. Because puberty happens earlier for girls, they are at risk for harm from digital stimuli at an earlier age. Girls are more socially attuned, so they are differently vulnerable than boys. They are harmed more by social media because they use it more and are more sensitive to visual comparisons (think body image); aggression among their gender tends to be social (think *Mean Girls*); they are more emotionally open; they are vulnerable to predatory older men (who are advantaged by the lawlessness of the digital world).

The vulnerability of boys starts with absence of unsupervised play where they learn how to manage fear through risky play, which would lay the foundation for a discovery mode of learning. In its absence, humans default to a defend mode which is a particularly bad fit with our view of masculinity. Haidt calls this condition fragility, which is both real (they lack the skills to assess and manage risk) and imagined (they believe they lack the skills), a feed-back loop that reinforces fragility.

Fragile boys tend to withdraw from the real world into the gaming and pornography world, both of which appeal to a version of manhood but fail to develop requisite skills. Furthermore, their withdrawal from the real world limits their access to live males who could model and teach real manly risk-management skills.

For both genders, the four foundational harms of digital envelopment are social deprivation, sleep deprivation, attention fragmentation, and addiction. The outcome for both genders, the girls earlier and faster, is mental unwellness – anxiety, depression, body dysphoria, aimlessness and hopelessness, a feeling of not belonging, social discomfort, etc.

It's a sad picture, but not a lost cause. Haidt recommends strongly that children not be allowed an internet-connected phone until age 13, and as is becoming widely considered, that phone-free spaces be created and protected. He suggests we question the assumption of risk in the real world and allow unsupervised play. Of course reeling in the Wild West of the digital world would be a good idea – it's not clear he thinks it's achievable.

Hard as it may be, it's worth doing if we value our younger generations.

points of view

Interview with a Bigfoot

Loon Tales

Steve Galea

LAST WEEK this paper did a story about a possible connection between Bigfoot and Haliburton County. I'm happy to announce that I secured an exclusive interview with Harry Largesole, a local Bigfoot whose family has been cottaging in Haliburton County for several generations.

Here is a brief transcript of our interview.

SG: Hello Harry.

Harry: How are you now?

(We shake hands. I step on his feet, which you can hardly fault me for. They are huge.)

SG: Let's get right down to business. As a rule, your species prefers to be secretive and elusive. Why did you contact me for this interview?

Harry: We wanted a soft introduction to the world. We've been following your career. Having done so, we are certain very few people are going to read this.

SG: Prepare yourself for some hard-hitting journalism.

Harry: Sure, have at it.

SG: Do all Bigfeet have big feet?

Harry: No. I have a cousin who only wears a size 15. He shops in the children's section of our shoe store.

SG: Hold it! You guys wear shoes and have a shoe store?

Harry: Yes. Of course. One of the reasons I'm doing this is to dispel the stereotype of us shambling bare foot though the woods. It is ridiculous and antiquated.

SG: Really?

Harry: Have you ever tried walking barefoot through the woods in Haliburton County? I mean how many big toes do you want to stub?

SG: But what about those famous Bigfoot footprints that people always seem to find?

Harry: We have our hippies too.

SG: And the rest of you?

Harry: We prefer a comfortable hiking boot with lots of ankle support.

SG: Why don't Bigfoot hunters find those tracks?

Harry: They do, but they assume an NBA basketball team made them.

SG: No offense, but something stinks?

Harry: Other than your writing?

SG: Yes.

Harry: It's my foot odour. Sorry. The average Bigfoot has size 32 feet. Unless you use the European shoe size system, then its size 136… Any way you look at it, that's a big space for foot odour to thrive on. It's why we outlawed water shoes…

SG: It seems to me that your entire culture is centred around your massive feet. Is that a fair characterization?

Harry: I guess it is. All our cultural activities are foot-related. Soccer, grape stomping, tap-dancing, bare-foot skiing, hot-foots, you name it. Also, our women look for big feet in a potential mate. Sorry about that.

SG: My feet are just the right size for a small human. Also, I have a great personality and good sense of humour, OK?

Harry: Sure.

SG: Can we move on?

Harry: Why not?

SG: What are the challenges a modern Bigfoot has to contend with?

Harry: Our biggest concern is footcare.

SG: Didn't see that coming…

Harry: Most Bigfoots can't afford a simple pedicure these days. And don't get me going about bunion removal. It's ridiculous…

SG: I suppose they charge by the square foot.

Harry: Very funny.

SG: See, sense of humour…

Harry: Right… Is there anything else?

SG: Some Bigfoot hunters are wondering if you travel interdimensionally. Is that true?

Harry: Are you kidding? I just learned to drive stick last week.

SG: I guess that wraps it up. I hope I'll see you again one day.

Harry: Not if I see you first…

pic *of the* past

Vinton Loucks is shown in the early 1940s sitting on his binder, which is being pulled along by his team of horses at his farm located five miles from Minden. On his left are four members of his family: three boys and one girl. /From the *Echo* archives

Love in action

Tales from the great Green meadow

Lynda Shadbolt

OVER 30 years ago Jim and I had a conversation with our good friend, Anne Creelman, who loves cooking and has always said the most important ingredient in the recipe is love. Cook with love. Add love every step of the way from the moment you start preparing the food until you are cleaning up after.

Jim and I remind ourselves of these words on a regular basis and we have so much good food and love in our lives. Fast forward 30+ years and I am working at Brooksong Retreat and Cancer Support Centre for the weekend. A four-day retreat is being offered for people living with cancer and their caregiver. My job is hospitality and I work closely with Esther who runs the kitchen, and a volunteer who comes at each meal to help her prepare.

The participants on the weekend retreat are treated to the most delicious, healthy and creative food. Being in the kitchen with Esther and her team is such a pleasure. They are cooking with love. There are stories, and laughter, and lots of learning. They share recipes and ideas. All of the volunteers love Esther. She is consistently kind, attentive, funny and so caring. The food is sourced locally as much as possible, and special needs are cooked for.

On Friday evening of this retreat, Barb Smith Morrison (executive director of Brooksong) and Thea Patterson (founding member of Brooksong) attended the annual Haliburton County Chamber of Commerce Awards Gala, where individuals, businesses and not-for-profits are given awards to recognize their growth and contributions in our county.

On this particular evening, the Warden for Haliburton County, Dave Burton, stood to present the Wardens Award where he chooses a person or business or organization that is making a significant contribution in our county. Brooksong was the recipient of this auspicious award this year. Barb and Thea were both completely surprised and stood to receive the recognition.

And in the very special way that Barb speaks, she acknowledged that this award is for every person who is connected to Brooksong. There are so many people to thank. The kitchen volunteers who nourish people with love. Those who volunteer to iron the sheets and pillows and make the beds. Those who sew quilts for the Warm Hug program that gives hand sewn quilts to people living with cancer. Those who knit slippers and hats and shawls for participants to use and keep. Those who tend the land and the facilities. Those who serve on the Board of Directors and work tirelessly to raise money and awareness to keep the organization growing and strong. The couple who bake pies all year long and sell them to raise funds. Everyone who participates in and donates to the Haliburton Highlands Challenge each year and raises $100,000. Every single person who tells the Brooksong story and helps to build awareness. And then the staff who work to plan and lead these retreats. They bring big hearts that listen and are full of compassion and kindness.

It truly takes the entire county to make Brooksong a success. Brooksong is love in action. It is an example of what is possible when there is love in every part of the organization. Thank you to everyone who is supporting Brooksong and for more information check out www.brooksong.ca.

letters to the editor

Thankful for local healthcare

To the Editor,

Our family is so grateful for the local healthcare system we have here in Haliburton County, after a scary experience with pneumonia for our two year old. We received nothing short of amazing care, coordination, and support from the doctors and nurses at Haliburton Highlands Health Services (Dr. Devon Tillbrook, RN Derek, RN Carol, and RN Morgan) and paramedics from the Haliburton County Paramedic Service (Courtney and Adam), as well the whole pediatrics team in Peterborough. We'll be hugging our kiddo extra tight these days, and spent our Thanksgiving weekend reflecting on how lucky we are for so many reasons.

Lauren Hunter,
Ingoldsby

Cross-Border crazies

To the Editor,

Ford, the self-proclaimed Republican, needs to stay in his own backyard politically and quit going rogue. He has no mandate to speak on behalf of our entire country.

This latest "Trump Tantrum", albeit via Ford's deliberate meddling, should give Carney a re-think on joining the 'Golden Dome Gang'. Reagan must be laughing in his grave - his *Star Wars* dream is coming to fruition. Canada must remain solidly against weaponizing space. Talk about a most dangerous military-industrial complex boondoggle!

The way Carney et. al have secretly been working towards this frightening project without public consultation should be 'front and centre' in the House of Commons. How did he get talked into this? Maybe it should be re-named the 'Con-Dome'!

Apparently it›s not too hard to 'Con-Carney'. Witness the success of 'Big Fossil and Nuclear' in directing his so-called Nation Building agenda. So much for addressing our climate crisis.

John Gibb
(Environmental and
Social Justice Advocate), Minden

Fast Lane Monday Bowling League

The Fast Lane Top Bowling Scores
October 20

Women
High Single
Cathy Snell 228
High Single with Handicap
Shelley Makela 265
High Triple
Cathy Snell 654
High Triple with Handicap
Cathy Snell 684

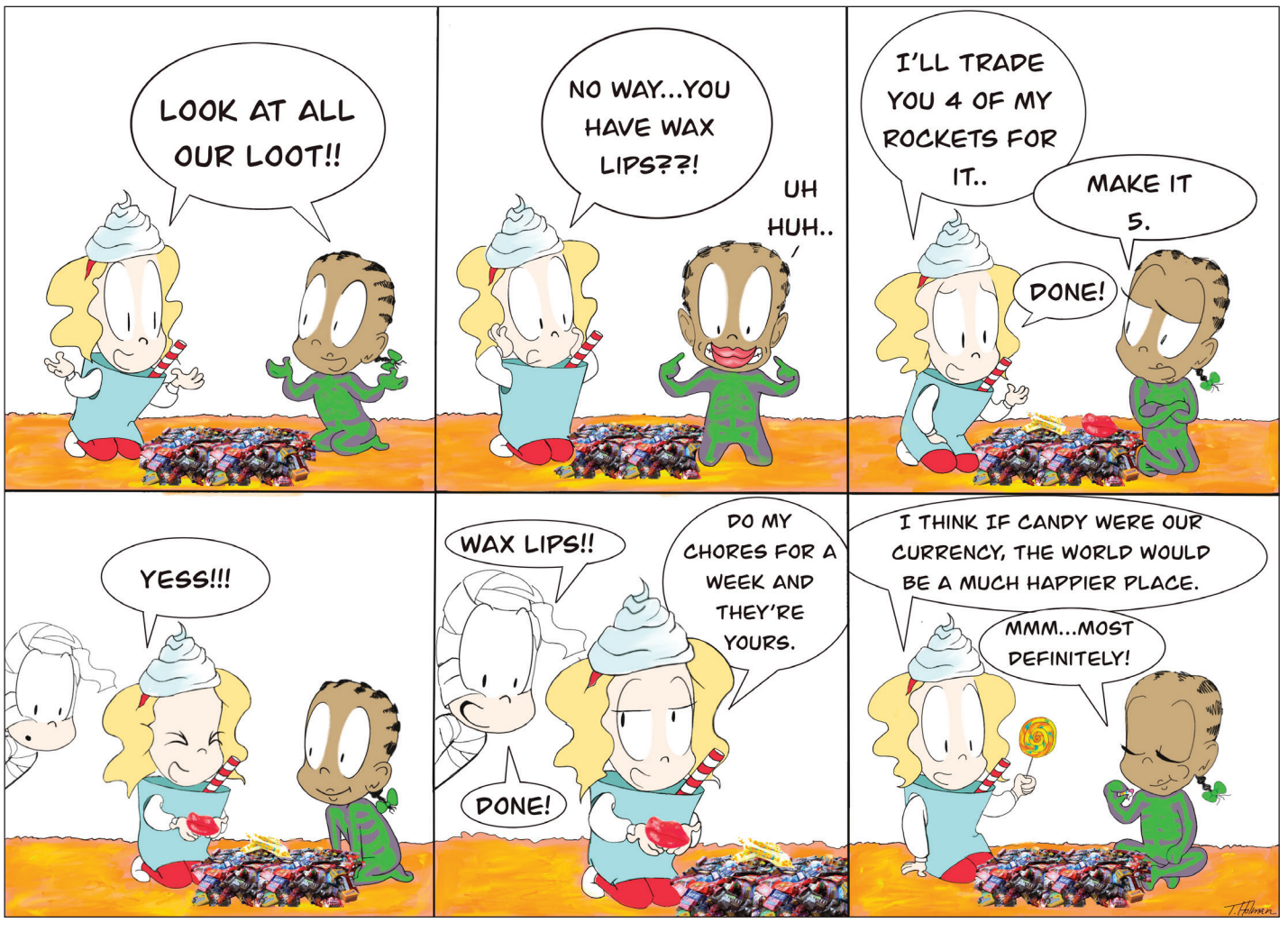
Men
High Single
Jeff Adams 212
High Single with Handicap
Jay Salvatori 307
High Triple
Claude Cote 543
High Triple with Handicap
Jay Salvatori 689

New bowlers are welcome to join.

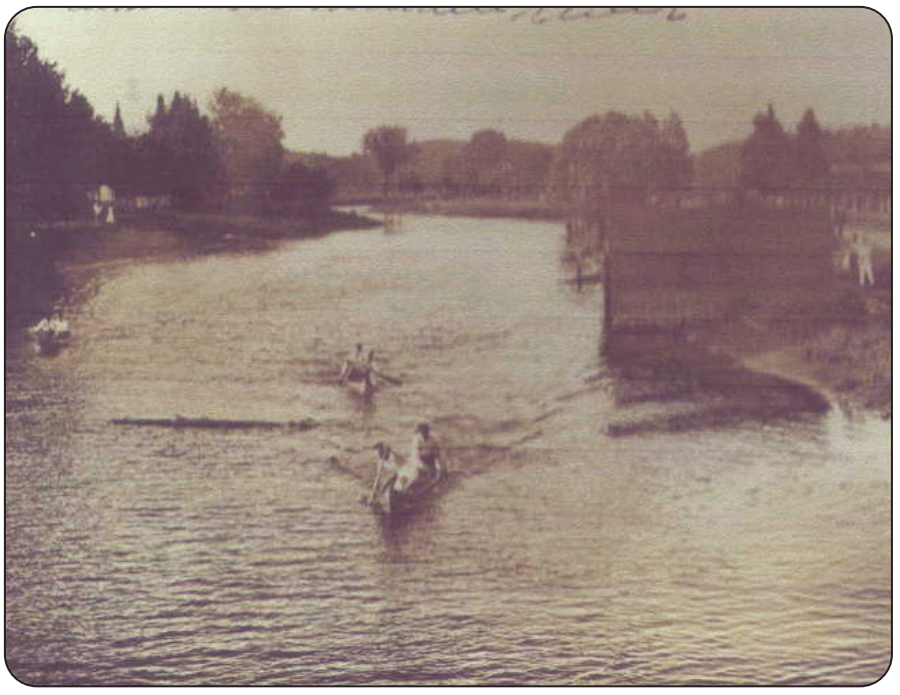
Have a thought, comment or opinion you'd like to share?

Send a letter to the editor to
emily@haliburtonpress.com

HALIWOOD NORTH


LOOK AT ALL OUR LOOT!!
NO WAY...YOU HAVE WAX LIPS??!
UH HUH..
I'LL TRADE YOU 4 OF MY ROCKETS FOR IT..
MAKE IT 5.
DONE!
YESS!!!
WAX LIPS!!
DO MY CHORES FOR A WEEK AND THEY'RE YOURS.
DONE!
I THINK IF CANDY WERE OUR CURRENCY, THE WORLD WOULD BE A MUCH HAPPIER PLACE.
MMM...MOST DEFINITELY!

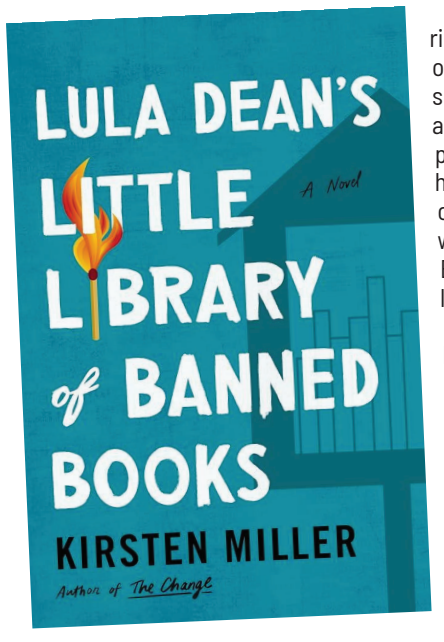
Minden Memories



A photo depicting a canoe race on the Gull River. /Photo courtesy of the Minden Hills Cultrual Centre

HALIBURTON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Book of the Week



In the small town of Troy, Georgia, lifelong rivals Beverly Underwood and Lula Dean are once again at odds. Beverly serves on the school board, while Lula has made herself a local crusader determined to cleanse the public library of inappropriate books that she has never actually read. To fill the gap, she opens her own little lending library stocked with what she deems wholesome literature. But when a mischievous local swaps her collection for banned books ranging from Judy Blume to witchy spell books, Lula's neighbors begin discovering new perspectives, passions, and possibilities with every borrowed title, leading to a showdown that will shake the whole town.

Lula Dean's Little Library of Banned Books by Kirsten Miller is available at the Haliburton County Public Library as a book or Book Club Set. Visit haliburtonlibrary.ca to place a hold or learn more.

Forty years of fun: Pockets' legacy of laughter and artistry

ADAM FRISK
Journalist

Pockets shows her work to a child during ColourFest. /ADAM FRISK staff

For nearly four decades, the beloved entertainer known as Pockets the Clown and face painter has brightened the lives of thousands.

Pockets, who will celebrate her 40th anniversary as a professional entertainer in December 2026, continues a deep family tradition of bringing magic, balloon creations, and face painting to audiences across the Haliburton region after making the move from the Greater Toronto Area a few years ago, prompted by the global pandemic.

"As a professional clown, which is what I was when I lived in Brampton, I wasn't allowed in people's homes. For two years," she said in a recent telephone interview. "So my husband and I decided to retire up in this area.

Pockets and her husband chose the Haliburton area for its natural beauty and hiking opportunities.

"We're hikers. So we liked to hike in Algonquin Park and all the surrounding areas," the entertainer said. "So we decided this was the area that we wanted to come to."

Landing in Wilberforce, Pockets brought her celebrated artistry and family legacy to a new community, which allowed her to expand and create Pockets the Face Painter.

"Face painting is my passion, I love what I do," she explained. "Not that I didn't love being a clown, but to be in non-clown attire, I can be a little bit more creative. I just bring out a different personality than I am when I'm a clown.

"I'm still joyful and fun and all that stuff that I was in a clown costume, but it's a different character in my opinion. And I'm just a little bit more creative," Pockets said.

Pockets comes from a proud lineage of entertainers that began with her father, TwinkleToes, more than 50 years ago. Today, her eldest daughter, Pinky the Clown, also carries on the tradition. To preserve the fantasy for children, Pockets is known only by her professional name, a practice she adopted early on to ensure she's always seen as a "real clown."

"It's a clown thing that I learned years ago," she simply said.

Pockets is among the few entertainers who perform traditional white-faced clown style, a look she maintains in honour of her family. She is quick to differentiate her joyful, professional style from the modern horror movie trope. Something that proved difficult back in the day, thanks to movies like Stephen King's *It*.

"I had a lot of customers who requested I tone down my clown makeup, or didn't want to hire me because I was a clown," Pockets said. "I had a lot of phone calls that were threatening and very disturbing because people found out I was a clown.

"So it was a very challenging time," she said.

Pockets deploys a simple but effective technique when dealing with fearful or timid children and adults; she allows them space.

"I don't pay attention to them, but I keep my eye on them because eventually, by the end of the party, they will be my best friend," she said, often earning a hug goodbye.

The performer's craft has evolved over 40 years. Pockets now uses professional "split cakes" and a wide variety of tools, a major improvement over the six basic liquid colours and single brush she started with so many years ago. This allows her to create popular, intricate balloon figures, like the in-demand unicorn, and stunning face-paint designs.

While the weekend party volume isn't as high as the relentless three to four parties every Saturday and Sunday she managed in the Toronto area, Pockets is embracing semi-retirement.

"And that's okay by me," she said with a chuckle. "You know, pick and choose one party per Saturday, one party per Sunday, I'm good."

THE TOWNSHIP OF MINDEN HILLS
IN SEASON, EVERY SEASON

Tree Lighting Ceremony

November 14th, 2025 6:00pm-8:00pm at the Village Green

Come and help decorate the tree, sing some carols and kick off this festive season at the Village Green located along Bobcaygeon Road between Water and Newcastle St.

Santa Claus Parade

November 15th, 2025 Parade Start at 11am!

The parade will begin at the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena, continue along Parkside Street and head south on Bobcaygeon Road, before finishing at the Township municipal parking lot off St. Germaine Street.
Non-perishable food items will be collected during the parade.
For more information visit https://www.mindenhills.ca/events/

Jacob Madden and Ethan Towers conducted a paranormal investigation of the Dominion Hotel on Halloween. Twelve participants took part in the investigation, visiting rooms one and four. During the investigation, ghost hunting equipment was used including a dead bell, REM pod, and a spirit box.

A participant takes part in the Estes Method. Using noise cancelling headphones and a spirit box, people in the room asked questions while the listener waited to hear a reply. /THOMAS SMITH Staff

Dominion Hotel hosts ghost hunt

THOMAS SMITH

Journalist

Readers beware, you are in for a scare.

On Halloween night last week, paranormal investigator Ethan Towers led a group of people on an investigation to try and catch evidence of paranormal activity at the Dominion Hotel in Minden.

Towers, a Bancroft native, has been investigating cryptids and paranormal occurrences and posting them to YouTube for over a year. With assistance from his collaborator Jacob Madden, the duo have travelled across the province while documenting their investigations. Madden works behind the camera and drives, while Towers conducts the investigation and edits the videos. Madden and Towers' parents were friends and the duo have been close since their childhood, both growing up in the Bancroft area.

"I've always been interested in things that can't be explained, cryptids, conspiracy theories and mysteries," said Towers.

Towers says that growing up, he experienced some unusual paranormal phenomena towards him.

He was inspired to create his own paranormal themed content after watching the popular YouTube channel *Sam and Colby*. Sam and Colby explore strange, unusual, and abandoned places and also conduct their own paranormal investigations. The popular duo have been posting to YouTube regularly for 10 years and currently have 15 million subscribers.

"I saw that they were able to go to all these insane places to investigate and meet all the awesome people and have all this crazy equipment without having to have a TV show," said Towers. "They were able to do it all through YouTube."

Tower's channel @EthanTowersYT is fast approaching 900 subscribers. He hopes that having public appearances like at the Dominion Hotel will allow for more investigations, interest from the public, and leads for investigations.

Using his hard-earned money to buy a camera and some paranormal investigative equipment, Towers dreams to make content creation his full-time job.

"I can't imagine doing anything else," said Towers.

Towers' investigations have taken him to contact the spirit of witches in Kingston, hunting for Bigfoot and skinwalkers in forests, and consulting spirits with Ouija boards at home.

Participants filled the room during the ghost hunting session on Halloween at the Dominion Hotel in Minden. /THOMAS SMITH staff

"I'm just trying to go and investigate everywhere I can without having to travel too far or breaking the bank because I don't have the funds right now to travel farther away," said Towers. "But I do love investigating in these areas."

Towers had learned of past paranormal investigations at Dominion Hotel. According to Towers, the iconic hotel is famous for being a haunted landmark in Ontario.

Towers had emailed Dominion Hotel owner Shawn Chamberlin about recording a video for his channel at the Minden site. In response, Chamberlin asked Towers if he would be interested in opening the event to the public, which he agreed to.

"I had seen there were investigations done there before and I thought it would be a very cool experience," said Towers. "I immediately took up that offer because it's such a cool thing."

For the paranormal investigation, Towers brought all your standard ghost hunting equipment including MAG lights, REM pods, emf readers, a dead bell, spirit box, and dowsing rods.

At the start of the Halloween investigation at the hotel, Towers was already familiar with some hot spots in the hotel and the history of past owners, their names, and the names of their children who lived in the hotel.

To begin the paranormal investigation, guests were brought into room number four. People asked questions to get responses from both the flashlights, Rem pod, and dead bell. One participant, a seasoned ghost hunter, even brought his own vintage voice recorder to try and capture any breathing or voices.

Guests were then brought to room number one. After using the Rem pod and dead bell, the Estes Method was used.

The Estes Method involves using a spirit box and two people. One person is blindfolded and has their senses deprived except for their hearing. One person is asking questions with the other person listening for answers from the spirit box. The spirit box rapidly flips through radio channels which spirits can supposedly communicate with.

"They are just saying whatever they hear from the spirit box so when what they say lines up with the questions it's pretty cool," said Towers. "You basically are just turning someone into a tool for the spirits to talk through."

Two participants were used for the Estes Method. During the sessions, words that stood out included 'hell', 'devil', and a response of 'under' after being asked if the spirit was 50 years old.

While one participant was sensory deprived, she said that she felt something sit beside her on the bed. At the same time, the REM pod was strongly being triggered.

This investigation was Towers' first time leading a public paranormal investigation. The investigation was recorded and will be posted as a two-part video on his YouTube channel.

After the public left, Towers says he and Madden continued to speak to the negative presence in room number one. The spirit they contacted indicated that they were brought in from a guest and decided to stay at the hotel to gain energy from its visitors.

After moving their investigation to the attic, the pair heard footsteps and a constant knocking. He says that other spirits wanted the negative entity to leave.

Towers' dream is to one day be able to visit Ed and Lorraine Warren's Occult Museum.

While the museum is currently closed, comedian Matt Rife and ghost hunter Elton Castee purchased the home and its contents in 2025 and plan on reopening the museum to the public.

"It has hundreds of demonic and haunted items in it like the real Annabelle doll, the shadow doll and many, many other famous items," said Towers.

Out of all of his paranormal experience, Towers says that a visit to the King George Inn in Cobourg has been one of the most memorable.

Towers says that he could hear loud banging in the basement, where the original nurses office of the former jail used to be. He could also hear a door shut in the hallway. After checking to see if he had disturbed another guest, he could hear unexplainable footsteps rushing towards their door.

"It was pretty crazy, they also still had the solitary confinement door but it was sealed," said Towers. "It couldn't be opened from the inside or outside and when I was in front of it there was a knock on the door from the inside of it that was basically impossible to access."

Towers is always on the lookout for interesting leads for things like paranormal activity, extraterrestrial sightings, or cryptids.

If anyone has a lead that you would like to see Towers investigate, you can email ethan.towersyt@gmail.com. Their private investigation at the Dominion will be posted as the second part to the video.

Holiday magic returns to Abbey Gardens

After a brief hiatus, Abbey Gardens is thrilled to announce the return of its beloved Holiday Night Market on Saturday, Nov. 15, from 4 to 8 p.m. This festive community favourite transforms the Abbey Gardens property into a glowing winter wonderland where visitors can shop, sip, and celebrate the magic of the season.

Following record-breaking attendance in past years, the market is back and better than ever. Guests are invited to stroll along illuminated pathways, explore a cozy, heated vendor tent filled with local artisan creations, and enjoy festive food and drink from the Abbey Gardens Food Hub and local partners.

Visitors can look forward to:

Holiday-themed cocktails and warm beverages – from cider to hot chocolate and other seasonal sips.

Wood-fired pizza, sweet treats, and café favourites.

Twenty local artisan vendors offering handmade gifts, jewellery, décor, and seasonal treasures.

Exclusive Food Hub finds and festive surprises.

Ambient lights, fire pits, and cheerful music filling the air with warmth and joy.

"The Holiday Night Market truly captures the spirit of Abbey Gardens," said Angela Kruger, executive director of Abbey Gardens. "It's where our community comes together to celebrate creativity, connection, and local craftsmanship – all against the backdrop of our twinkle-lit gardens. The response this event has received in previous years reminds us how much people value gathering in nature and supporting something that gives back."

Admission is by donation, with priority entry for online ticket reservations (walk-ins welcome as space allows). All proceeds support Abbey Gardens' environmental education and restoration projects that help connect people with nature and sustainability year-round.

For more information, visit abbeygardens.ca/event-details/abbey-gardens-holiday-night-market.

Submitted

Arts Council launches new campaign

The Arts Council Haliburton Highlands (ACHH) has unveiled new strategic priorities and a community Giving Campaign that will guide the organization into its next decade. The initiatives focus on sustainability, collaboration, and access to the arts for all – ensuring a vibrant creative future for Haliburton County.

Launching Nov. 1, the Giving Campaign invites community members, businesses, and arts supporters to help keep the arts alive in Haliburton County. Donations will directly support local artists, public art projects, and accessible community programs that inspire people of all ages.

"This community has helped us build a rich artistic and cultural identity," said Chris Lynd, ACHH Board Vice-Chair. "We're asking everyone to help us continue that legacy – celebrating our artists, our history, and the creative spirit that defines Haliburton County."

Each of the Council's strategic priorities is shaped with care and purpose, so that, together with community collaboration, meaningful, long-term benefits can be achieved for local arts in our community.

The Arts Council makes it easy to give. Donations - one-time, monthly, or as gifts – can be made online at www.haliburtonarts.on.ca/donate. Businesses and individuals are also encouraged to explore sponsorship and membership opportunities.

The Arts Council Haliburton Highlands continues to be a catalyst for creativity, culture, and community - connecting people and ideas that make Haliburton a place where the arts truly thrive. Collaborating with partners on new initiatives and elevating community engagement will be the difference between simply living here and truly belonging to a vibrant community.

Submitted

the arts council haliburton highlands

HALIBURTON VILLAGE
SANTA CLAUS PARADE
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21st, 2025 ~ 6:30pm
A Canadian Christmas
True North Strong & Free
Merry Christmas
BANDS HORSES MARCHER BRIGHT LIGHTS
To enter contact
Jim Frost at 705 457-4031 or
jandmfrost@outlook.com
At the Town Tree, there will be caroling at 5:30 pm and Tree Lighting at 6:00 pm
CANADA POST POSTES CANADA
Canada Postal workers will be on the parade route collecting letters for Santa.
REMEMBER - NO PARKING ON HIGHLAND STREET
The parade is proudly brought to you by the Downtown Haliburton Business Association and the Haliburton & District Lions Club

Huskies from Haliburton head to Hollywood

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

One doesn't always correlate the story of *Frankenstein* with that of icy tundras and Siberian sled dogs.

But true fans of the 1818 Gothic novel by Mary Shelley would know differently.

"I was surprised," said Tanya McCready, the owner of Winterdance Dogsled Tours in Haliburton, "but once I read the book, sure enough, it opens and closes in the arctic."

And this is exactly where McCready and her husband and co-owner, Hank DeBruin, come into the picture.

The big picture. The 2025 version of *Frankenstein* made its way to theatres on Oct. 17, and has been sweeping the nation with rave reviews before moving to Netflix. The passion project of Oscar-winning director Guillermo del Toro, there are already rumblings that the dramatic re-telling of the classic Shelley tale is destined for awards-season.

So where do the dogsled tours come in? With the story-line weaving the winter winds into the film as a whole, del Toro had a vision for Siberian huskies to lead the pack.

Hank DeBruin, Tanya McCready, and one of their pups, Angus, shared their story of bringing Winterdance dogs to the big screen. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

"We got a call two years ago at Thanksgiving," recalled McCready. "And we were told that the director was looking for a very specific look of dogs." At this point, McCready wasn't informed which film the huskies would be featured in, but the contact for the scouting was from the biggest animal acting company in the world; having worked on the sets of *Harry Potter* and *Game of Thrones,* to name a few.

The scouts came to photograph the pack at Winterdance, working alongside McCready and DeBruin to pinpoint specific looks and temperaments out of their pack of 120 dogs.

By Christmas of that year, they received a phone call. "They told us that this was a go," recalled McCready, "and they said, 'this is a big movie'."

But even with that insight, nothing could have prepared McCready and DeBruin for the extent of detail that went into the magical world of *Frankenstein*.

"We will never watch a movie the same way again," said DeBruin. "Every little detail is noted. It's a real make-belief world."

In January, 2024, the couple were off to Toronto, where filming began. DeBruin had been brought on as the stunt double for the dogsledding scenes, filling in for the main actor, Oscar Isaac. "They had laid out the scenes they needed sled dogs for," explained McCready, noting that they travelled between Toronto and North Bay, bringing along a loyal team of dogs that ranged between eight and 12, depending on the day.

"I think it was a very surreal experience for the dogs," chuckled McCready, noting one spring day of filming, where the set decorators needed to make snow for a specific scene. The dogs hadn't seen snow for weeks at that point, and hopped out of the car to jump right in and roll around in their favourite climate.

For DeBruin, working on the film was unlike anything he had ever done before. He was dressed in full, traditional period costume, with thick furs and a custom dogsled. But beyond the intricacies of the set and staging details, it was just another work day.

On the first day of shooting, he was asked if he was nervous; "no," he laughed. "It's another day of working with dogs, just in a different setting. They were our dogs, and our dogs respond to their person."

By the time the scenes with the dogs had wrapped, McCready noted that the whole crew felt like family. "They were all just amazing," she said. "It's like we had found long lost friends." She shared that the animals were treated with the utmost respect and kindness, and each dog was celebrated and acknowledged in the process. They always felt supported when putting their dogs first.

While the couple haven't seen the finished product yet, they will be witnessing it alongside the community at the Kinmount Theatre in November. "That's where we were meant to see it," said McCready. "There was so much passion, so much thought put into it. I have no doubt it will be epic."

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Local photographer opens a new door

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Editor

Local photographer Dana McMullen set up his art trailer on Highland Street in Haliburton in October. He hopes to create a movement where art is accessible and available to all interested. /submitted

Dana McMullen has showcased his work around the world. From the corners of spanning continents to the comfort of Highland Street in his previous gallery, his work has been seen by thousands.

But he's about to make a change. While he has leaned into gallery openings and feature frontage, the photographer is ready for a different pace.

And he's doing it on his own terms.

In mid-October, McMullen launched his mobile art gallery in the heart of Haliburton, with a pop-up in front of Juna Restaurant on the main road that winds through the community. With hardwood floors and built-in track lights, the world-renowned artist brought his art on the road, and welcomed everyone and anyone to visit the temporary exhibition.

"I saw an idea, with the trailer," he said. "I need to bring my art to where the people are."

Within minutes of setting up downtown, the trailer was flooded with viewers. Interested individuals and curious commenters. And while the pop-up was developed with the intent of McMullen gathering his own content to market the initiative, it ended up taking on a life of its own. "We want to share this space," he said. "It can be limiting for accepting artists with traditional galleries. But we can promote each other, we can share each other's social channels, and create that heightened experience."

The slogan on the trailer is: "Art that moves. Feel it. Love it. Take it home."

Each piece in the trailer is available for purchase, with McMullen actively creating a tactile and interactive experience; differing from viewing pieces in an art gallery, where expectations and best practices are often put on display.

McMullen aims to make the experience personal, accessible, and available for all.

With his pieces varying, each one is part of a limited run. Some of his work airs on the side of abstract, with intricate close-ups with heightened zips of colour, while others showcase a window into the community; a misty morning on the lake, a spanning starscape seen through a dense forest. He has sold his art world-wide, and ships out regularly, but is now committed to opening the doors to anyone interested in art, in nature, in photography.

He tried round two of the pop-up shortly after his Juna experience, with the trailer setting up at Sir Sam's annual Fall Festival a few weeks ago. "We saw more people in the five hours we were open there than I did the entire time I had a studio in downtown Haliburton," he chuckled. "It was a huge success."

While McMullen is still in the early development stage of taking art on the road, he's open to partnering, and continuing to develop the idea in an effort to elevate the viewing experience. Interested artists are encouraged to reach out to McMullen through his social media channels.

"I want to create a heightened experience," he said. "Art that moves, taking it to where the people are."

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Dysart council bounces around bridge ideas

from page 1

Council received the final design drawings for the new footbridge in a staff report during the Oct. 28 regular meeting. The total updated construction cost is estimated at $590,000. This figure includes non-recoverable HST, a 15 per cent contingency, and administrative costs. The figure doesn't include additional costs for damage done to the park outside of the project area during the mobilization and construction of the bridge.

"If you move forward with this, it's likely that it will wipe out your parkland reserve for anything moving forward," Rob Camelon, director of public works, told council. "I do get the sense that there's some uncertainty if council wants to move ahead on this project. I would suggest that if you don't want to move ahead with it, we decide today to cut it off, but if we do that, we then do a structural evaluation on the bridge just to see what kind of loading it can take and whether we have to close it or find another option."

The replacement of the existing steel footbridge was approved by council earlier this year following a feasibility study in 2024. Nearly $300,000 of the parkland reserve would be used towards the $590,000 proposed design.

People cross the footbridge at Head Lake Park on Oct. 29. /ADAM FRISK staff

"I'm weak at the knees here," Fearrey said after hearing the latest figures.

Council suggested to the director of public works to look into an alternative to the likes of a Bailey bridge, a structure similar to the bridge that was purchased for Koshlong Lake Road.

"I mean if we want to defer this again, we can look at different options," Camelon said. "If it's like Koshlong, Koshlong wasn't meant to really be a permanent fix, right. It buys us time. But, it all costs money."

Councillor Pat Casey was keen on the idea of the Bailey bridge approach.

"It will have its own look. Like a Bailey bridge looks, I think it looks unique," he told council. "I think it would fit, in my own opinion, I think it would fit in the park. It's galvanized, and it would go up in a minute, and it'll last forever."

The current bridge is arched, and Casey pointed to some safety concerns that come with an arched bridge.

"The river is not navigable anyway, so in terms of having an arch, that was just for looks and architecture," he said. "But to be honest with you, if you get a little bit of snow or ice on it, it's more of a detriment if there's an arch in it."

Casey said he was "optimistic" that a Bailey bridge would cost about $100,000 or less.

Council directed staff to return a report on the feasibility and cost of placing a Bailey bridge at the park, and for the current footbridge to undergo a structural evaluation.

Bike hub faces uncertainty after successful pilot

ADAM FRISK

Journalist

A community initiative in Haliburton, the Caboose Community Bike Hub, is facing uncertain times moving forward after its application for a crucial provincial grant was denied.

Caboose Community Bike Hub project coordinator Pamela Marsales reported to Dysart council on Oct. 28 that the pilot project, housed in a heritage railway caboose at Head Lake Park, was an overwhelming success.

"The success is measured by the number of visitors we had over the summer. The positive comments in the guest book, which total 60 pages of hand-written comments, and enthusiastic response from the community at large," she said.

The six-month project came to fruition thanks in part to an Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) Seed Grant and in a partnership between the Municipality of Dysart et al and the Friends of the Rail Trail (FoRT), along with support from Rotary, Fleming College, and other local organizations.

The hub was open for 24 weeks, from May to mid-October. Its key offering was the "Slow Spokes" guided bike rides on village pathways, designed to help "reluctant riders get back on a bike" and teach safe riding skills to encourage confidence. The initiative was praised for giving new purpose to the caboose and adding "vibrant energy to Head Lake Park," Marsales said.

However, Marsales told the council that, despite meeting all the objectives of its initial grant, the project's application for the multi-year OTF 'Grow' grant for 2026 was denied, resulting in zero funding. That leaves the future of the popular hub uncertain.

Marsales said she plans to move forward with a "plan B" for the 2026 season, which includes finding a sustainable future for the hub by combining community partners, community investment, and a new collaborative agreement between FoRT and Dysart.

"So far I have in place a facilitated community partners meeting coming up at HCDC (Haliburton County Development Corporation). In order for that to be effective, we need to know that Dysart is interested in committing to making the caboose available on an ongoing basis as a community bike hub," she said. "Then we can work with community partners to brainstorm some ideas."

Council suggested that Dysart is willing to keep the caboose available for the hub should a plan and funding fall in place for next year.

"I support making it available," Councillor Pat Casey said. "It was a great thing this summer. The way forward I guess would be is that you come back to us after HCDC meets."

Notice
(Applicant – Yaccato)

In the matter of the *Municipal Act* and in the matter of a proposed By-law of the Corporation of the Municipality of Highlands East to close, stop-up and convey certain portions of an Original Shore Road Allowance along the shore of **Stormy Lake**, more particularly hereinafter described.

Notice Is Hereby Given,pursuant to the Municipal Act, S.O. 2001, and the Municipal Procedures, that the Township Council of The Corporation of the Municipality of Highlands East proposes to consider and if deemed advisable, to pass at a virtual meeting on **Tuesday, November 18, 2025**, 9:30 a.m., a By-Law to close, stop-up and convey to the adjacent land owners the following described lands:

Part of the Original Shore Road Allowance in front of Lots 28 and 29, Concession 13, Township of Glamorgan, Municipality of Highlands East, County of Haliburton, shown as Part 1 on Plan of Survey 19R-11161, made by **Bishop Geyer Surveying Inc., completed, January 6, 2025**

The Plan of Survey 19R-11161 is available to you for inspection by you making an appointment at the Municipality of Highlands East offices, Wilberforce, Ontario.

The above described lands, by resolution, have been declared to be surplus. If you wish to attend the virtual meeting, please call or e-mail the Municipal Clerk prior to the day of the public meeting so you can be provided with a link or phone number for the meeting. If you do not have the capability to attend a virtual meeting, please provide written comments to the Municipal Clerk prior to the public meeting.

Any person or his or her counsel, solicitor or agent who attends the virtual meeting shall be afforded an opportunity to make representations in respect of the within matter.

And Take Further Notice that if the public wishes to participate regarding the purchase of Shoreline Road Allowance please contact the Municipal Clerk.

Dated at the Municipality of Highlands East, Wilberforce, Ontario this 4th day of November, 2025.

Robyn Rogers, Municipal Clerk
Box 295, 2249 Loop Road,
WILBERFORCE, ON K0L 3C0
rrogers@highlandseast.ca
(705) 448-2981

Municipality of Dysart et al
135 Maple Ave., P.O. Box 389,
Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0
Telephone: (705) 457-1740
Email: info@dysartetal.ca
Website: www.dysartetal.ca

- **Date:** Tuesday, November 25, 2025
- **Time:** 9:00 AM
- **Location:** Take notice that the Public Meeting will take place in Council Chambers in the Municipal Office 135 Maple Avenue, Haliburton, Ontario and in electronic format using Zoom. The meeting will be live streamed to YouTube.

- **Application :**

Municipality of Dysart et al – General Amendments
File Nos.: D08-OP-2023-004 and D14-ZB-2025-003

Purpose and Effect:

i) Application to amend the Official Plan: The proposed amendment is to update the shoreline protection policies to permit one building near the shoreline of a waterbody, subject to compliance with the natural shoreline policies of the Official Plan.

ii) Application to amend the Zoning By-law: The proposed by-law will add definitions and amend provisions related to structures permitted in minimum setback areas to outline the specific use, size, height, and setback provisions and shoreline vegetation policies.

Location: The proposed Official Plan and Zoning By-law amendments will apply to all lands within the Municipality of Dysart et al.

For more information about electronic meetings and public participation in an electronic meeting, contact the Planning Technician at twilson@dysartetal.ca.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS MATTER INCLUDING INFORMATION ABOUT APPEAL RIGHTS: Contact the Planning and Land Information Department by appointment during regular office hours (8:30 A.M-4:30 P.M, Monday to Friday), or by contacting Jeff Iles, Director of Planning and Land Information at jiles@dysartetal.ca.

Dated at the Township of Dysart, this 4th day of November 2025.

Jeff Iles
Director of Planning and Land Information
Municipality of Dysart et al
135 Maple Avenue, Haliburton, Ontario K0M 1S0
Phone: 705-457-1740 ext. 625

Rails End Gallery to undertake major accessibility and entrance upgrade

ADAM FRISK

Journalist

The Rails End Gallery is pictured on Oct. 29. /ADAM FRISK staff

Rails End Gallery and Arts Centre is looking to undertake a major accessibility and entrance upgrade in an effort to "resolve several important public safety concerns."

Gallery board president Pat Moffatt and director and curator Laurie Jones presented to council a proposal requesting approval to proceed with a plan to build a new main entrance and accessible ramp on York Street.

The gallery was seeking approval on three key items during the Oct. 25 regular council meeting to apply for an Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) Capital Grant to help pay for the entrance upgrade.

First, the gallery required approval for a minimum five-year lease renewal agreement by Feb. 1, 2026, as this is a mandatory condition to be eligible to apply for a $200,000 OTF grant in March of next year; the current 10-year lease expires on Aug. 31. Second, they needed formal council support for their OTF grant application. Lastly, the gallery needed approval to proceed with planning and building the new entrance, with the understanding that the project's execution is contingent on securing the OTF grant.

Moffatt explained that the proposed design would help eliminate several ongoing issues currently hindering public access. The new entrance would improve safety and accessibility by mitigating hazards and offering better weather protection, she said. Specifically, the design will eliminate the risk of falling ice from the roof and minimize the pooling of water and ice at the sidewalk edge on York Street. The new accessible ramp will be shorter, designed to be safer for visitors, and will eliminate any gaps or trip hazards.

"We would like to emphasize that the new entrance will not affect the historical and architectural building features that this building is known for," Moffatt said.

Jones explained to council that the proposed entrance to the building from York Street would be 10 by 10 feet and located at the centre of the building as opposed to entering through the gallery shop.

"There's a logical opening space in the exterior of the building that goes in, right next to the office," she said. "There's a large window there, so we would go in through there, and the public would come into the building and land essentially in the heart of the gallery, in the middle."

Council approved the gallery's request to proceed with the OTF grant application, and the proposed new entrance should it receive the funding.

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Mike Waller, president of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 129 in Haliburton, poses for a photo on Oct. 30. /ADAM FRISK staff

Mike Waller: The heart of Haliburton's community

ADAM FRISK

Journalist

Mike Waller is a man whose life has become intricately linked with Haliburton, a community he's chosen to make his own.

From afar, you might see him as the dedicated president of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 129 in Haliburton, but that title only scratches the surface of a deeply committed, family-oriented man who lives by the simple principle of "help your neighbour."

Sitting at a table in the Legion and sipping a glass of water, Waller explained that his roots weren't initially in the Haliburton Highlands. He came from the hamlet known as Mitchell's Corners, in the municipality of Clarington, ON. The connection to the region began decades ago.

"Full-time since 2016, part-time since 1992," he explained.

It was Loon Lake that lured Waller. The Legion president explained that his beloved wife, Cheryl, had a family cottage nearby in Apsley, and the family would often travel through Haliburton to drop their daughters off at the nearby Girl Guides camp.

"We used to travel past Loon Lake Road, Loon Lake, and we always thought that was a beautiful lake," he recalled.

After Cheryl's parents died, the Wallers found their own piece of paradise there, a cottage that would become their permanent home.

The Wallers are the proud parents of three grown children, two daughters and a son, whose Oshawa-area upbringing now sees them visiting their own active grandkids: a high-level diver, a dirt bike racer, and soccer players. It's clear that while Haliburton is their home, their family remains a deep-rooted focus in their lives.

Waller's devotion to the Royal Canadian Legion is a cornerstone of his identity, a commitment born from family legacy and a profound sense of gratitude.

"My father was in World War II, and I had an uncle, uncles that were in World War II, and I had another uncle who was in, he flew fighter jets in the Korean War and Vietnam," he explained.

He said he had always been interested in the Legion but didn't join until later in life, after retiring and moving to Haliburton.

"But I always appreciated what the veterans have done for us," Waller said. "If it wasn't for what they did, what they stood up for, we wouldn't be here having the freedom and peace that we have. So that's always been a forethought in my mind.

"So that's what's driven me here," he shared.

His trajectory within the Legion was rapid. Waller said it started simply as "just coming to play darts." Then he served as a sports officer, then bar manager, until finally, three years ago, "the president's job came up and nobody else wanted it." He's now serving his third consecutive one-year term. But, he's not one to work alone, so he convinced Cheryl to take on the rentals for the branch, turning their volunteer work into a shared venture that keeps them both busy.

As for Haliburton and the Legion itself, Waller's mission is clear: community and family.

"If we help the community, we help the veterans, and if we help our veterans, we're helping our community," he said. "So it all works hand in hand. It's family. That's what it means to me."

When asked what keeps him going, Waller's answer was immediate: the community and the ability to help his veterans, giving back to them for what they've done "worldwide... what they stood up for."

Waller's dedication comes with a desire to see all service acknowledged. While he cherishes the memory of the veterans of the Great Wars, he said he feels a keen frustration with the lack of support and recognition for modern-day veterans.

"They need to be thanked," he insisted.

His emotion was palpable as he recalled the Highway of Heroes, a strip of Highway 401 in southern Ontario dedicated to the fallen.

"It was nice to see the amount of people who stood on bridges and acknowledged the gift of their life to what they stood for," Waller said. "I think we need to carry that forward."

Beyond his official role, Waller and his wife are often seen around the village pitching in wherever they can. Following a violent storm this summer that saw the destruction of several tents set up at Head Lake Park ahead of the arts festival, the Wallers were among the first on scene to lend a hand with the recovery efforts.

When simply asked why they dedicated themselves to helping the community in times of need, Waller chalked it up to age.

"Why? I don't know," he said with a chuckle. "We've always, I don't know if it was the age we grew up in, it's always help your neighbour, right? And it seems to have lost its way over the last little bit. Hopefully, we can bring that back."

When asked whether he was the type of person who would give the shirt off his back to someone in need, Waller quipped that his big shirt could probably clothe "two or three people."

"If somebody needs my help, I'm more than willing to give it," he said.

As he looks toward the next five to 10 years, he's not slowing down. Waller plans to keep running the Legion, as the work keeps him "involved and keeps my mind active." And the appreciation he receives from the veterans and from the community is all the reward he needs.

"It's good for the heart," he said. "Good for the soul."

Share the Warmth: Thank you, Haliburton County and North Hastings County

Once again, the people of Haliburton County have shown just how caring and generous our community can be. Because of your incredible response to SIRCH's Share the Warmth campaign, donation bins across the county overflowed with coats, boots, hats, mittens, and scarves for men, women and children - all ready to bring comfort and dignity to neighbours who need them most. Now, it's time to share that warmth

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Haliburton – SIRCH Bistro & Bakery, Sunday, Nov. 9 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Bancroft – Thrift Warehouse, Saturday, Nov. 15 from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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Halloween around the County

Staff from Dysart et al went all in for their annual Halloween costume contest. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

Baby Lisa was very excited for her first Halloween. /submitted

Skylet and Sean Bacon dressed up for Halloween. /submitted

Sky dressed up as Mal from the *Descendants* for Halloween. /submitted

Hadley Ryckman as a witch. /submitted

The Moratz family made spooky scarecrows to celebrate the occasion. /submitted

Halloween around the County

Trick or treaters explored Extendicare in Haliburton as residents handed out candy to eager visitors. The indoor event was a welcome reprieve from the rainy and snowy evening. /TIM YANO staff photographer

The annual Halloween witch dance on Pine Street took place on Friday evening. Despite the pouring rain, Julie Barban, the mastermind of bringing the witch dance to Haliburton and adapting the choreography from the original German version, Tiffany Howe, Melissa Tong, and Jackie McChesney danced as trick-or-treaters made their way around the neighbourhood. /ADAM FRISK staff

Christmas Toy & Food Drive 2025

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As the Christmas season commences, The Haliburton County Home Builders Association would like to encourage you to include its Christmas Challenge in your plans. Large or small, each gift will help fill the Christmas hampers distributed by the Food Banks in Haliburton County. If you aren't sure what to collect simply gather local gift certificates.

Option 1: Call - text 705-457-6901, email info@hchba.ca in advance to arrange a date to pick up your gifts. We will take them to the local distribution centers.

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Dance and Indian cuisine return to Legion for Diwali celebration

ADAM FRISK
Journalist

Get ready to celebrate the triumph of light over darkness as the Dance Happens Here Halliburton (DH3) hosts its second annual Diwali celebration.

Following last year's overwhelming success, the celebration returns to the Haliburton Legion on Nov. 15.

"It was such a success last year, and after the event, a number of people who either own or work in local businesses said, 'Oh, we want to do it again, and we want to help,'" said DH3 committee member Myra Stephen.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. for an evening promising delicious Indian food, dynamic music, and interactive community dancing. Haliburton resident Yasmin Schoenke will perform both Indian and African dance, then lead the crowd in an interactive dance session.

"There's a dance called Garba that uses sticks. And so Yasmin is busy making sticks so that we can have the community up and involved in dancing with them," she said.

The evening will kick off with an opening ceremony and a brief explanation of how Diwali is a celebration of light, community, and happiness. Professional DJ Karim Khimji of Safari Sounds will be spinning the tunes to get everyone up on their feet and dancing. As for the food, a simple but authentic meal from Masala Kraft in Lindsay will be served, featuring raved-about dishes like matar paneer, dal, butter chicken, rice, naan, and gulab jamun for dessert.

Harsha Manani dances during last year's Diwali celebration. /FILE

Diwali, often called the Festival of Lights, is a major celebration rooted in unity, love, gratitude, and new beginnings.

"It was well-received. Everybody had fun," Stephen said of last year's event.

Stephen said the event serves as an opportunity to bring people of different backgrounds together and celebrate the cultural diversity present, though not always visible, in the Haliburton community.

"People are celebrating, but you just don't necessarily see it," she said. "And what was wonderful about the celebration last year was that we could celebrate together."

The idea for the event originated from DH3 committee member Harsha Manani, who runs the Lakeview Motel with her uncle, after a conversation with fellow member Jim Blake. Harsha, who grew up celebrating Diwali in England, suggested the celebration as a way to connect with local people and offer a unique cultural experience, much like previous DH3 events such as a Salsa Night and a Kolomyika (Ukrainian dance) fundraiser.

"The great part was the mix of people. There were people there that were coming because they were getting a meal that was free for their kids," Stephen explained. "And there were people who were coming because they wanted to wear their saris and dance."

Tickets for the Diwali celebration can be purchased online at dancehappenshere.com or in person at Redmans Records. It's $40 for adults, $20 for college/university students and free for those under 18 years old.

DH3 is a volunteer-run group and part of the Haliburton County Community Cooperative, dedicated to bringing diverse dance experiences to the region.

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HHHS women's health clinic brings care closer to home

Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) is proud to highlight the success of its Women's Health Clinic in bringing specialized care closer to home for individuals across the region. By improving access to women's health services, the clinic is helping to ensure better health outcomes and a stronger continuum of care for patients living in and around the Haliburton Highlands.

This June, the clinic hosted its first Papapalooza event, completing 25 HPV tests for both attached and unattached patients – a key milestone in enhancing access to preventative screening. The next Papapalooza event is already scheduled for Dec. 16, offering another opportunity for residents to receive timely and essential care.

"We know that women across northern and rural Ontario often face long wait times or must travel great distances to receive care," said Dr. Mark, a physician at the Women's Health Clinic. "Our goal is to reduce those barriers by providing compassionate, comprehensive care right here in the community – so our patients can get the help they need without leaving home."

Since opening, the clinic has welcomed patients from as far away as Huntsville, drawn by both its accessibility and its commitment to patient-centred care. Many patients have expressed gratitude for the clinic's efficient scheduling and ability to provide same-day procedures – such as colposcopies – during their initial consultations. The clinic's patient-first model and timely follow-up have earned widespread appreciation. Feedback often highlights the compassionate care, short wait times, and the reassurance that comes from having a dedicated women's health service available locally.

"Having this kind of specialized care close to home means so much to our patients," said HHHS Interim President and CEO Jennifer Burns West. "It's another example of how we're working to strengthen access to healthcare in the Highlands – helping our residents stay healthy, supported, and connected to care within their own community."

The Women's Health Clinic continues to grow as part of HHHS's commitment to bringing care closer to home, reducing the need for travel, and ensuring that every patient receives timely, high-quality, and compassionate care.

Submitted

Telling our Stories speakers series

The *Telling our Stories* Speakers Series is delighted to have Dr. Nell Thomas join us on Wednesday, Nov. 12 at 7 p.m. at the Fish Hatchery on the Gelert Road. Dr. Thomas' presentation is titled *The New World of A.I.: How to Know What is Really Real*. Her talk will explain A.I. wizardry, contemplate its radical influence, and consider the following questions: What guardrails should exist for A.I., how can social media be held accountable, how can we protect ourselves and what do we need to know, and do, if we suspect fraud?

Dr. Nell Thomas has a Master of Clinical Science degree, is a Medical Doctor and has been a member of the Haliburton Highlands Family Health Team since 2013. She has also authored two local newspaper series and was a candidate in the recent Federal Election.

Tickets are $15 and pre-registration is highly recommended. To obtain tickets, contact Barrie Martin at 705-457-7557 or by email at barrieinthehighlands@gmail.com

Submitted

Have a thought, comment or opinion you'd like to share?

Send a letter to the editor to
emily@haliburtonpress.com

Brought to you by

SUDOKU

		9			3	8	7	
			5					
7						3		
		5			2		1	9
				1			3	
		6	9				5	
8		4						
	5	7	2		8		6	
1	2				6			

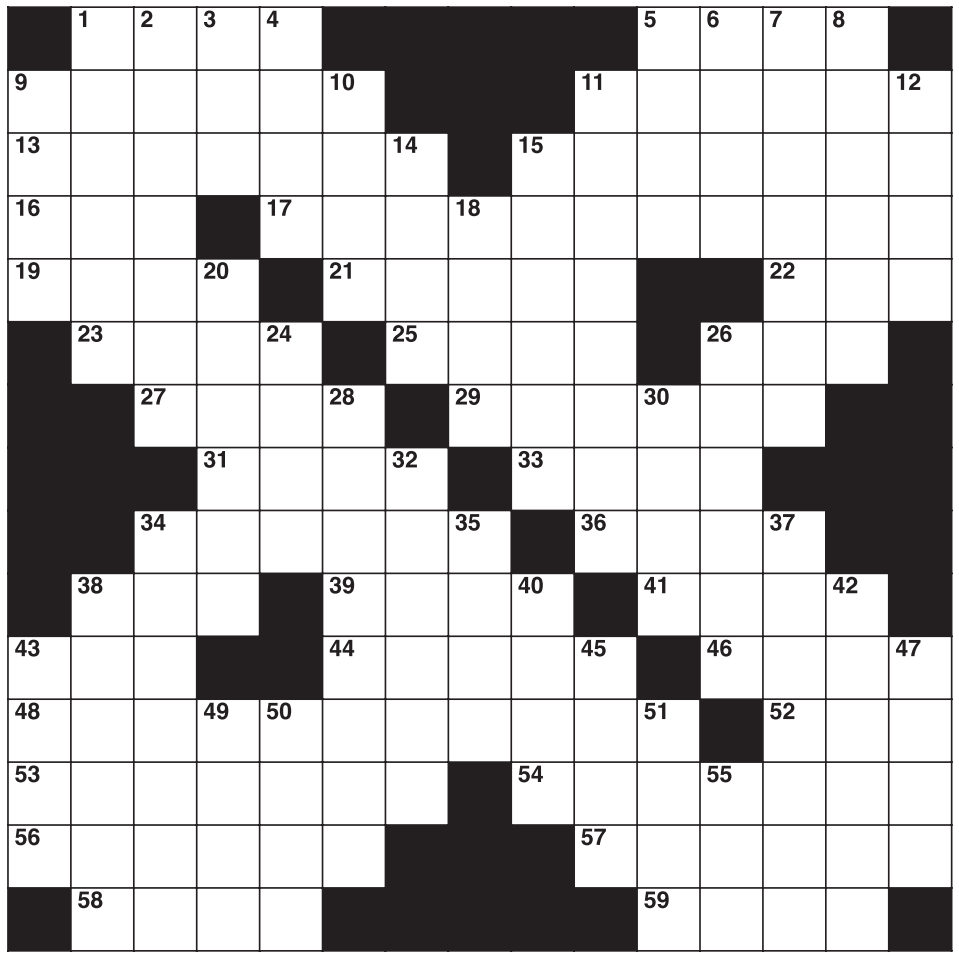
Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Answers on page 23



CLUES ACROSS
1. Difficult
5. Coarsely ground corn
9. There's one for the "world"
11. Loved Romeo
13. Sticky situation
15. Pelvic areas
16. An informal debt instrument
17. Cannot be repaired surgically
19. A device attached to a workbench
21. Related on the mother's side
22. Sound unit
23. __ Sagan, astronomer
25. Utah city
26. A disappointing effort
27. Steal goods during a riot
29. Wakes up
31. Hair salon service
33. Serenaded
34. Looked intensely
36. U.S. Air Force expert Robert F.
38. A type of cast
39. One's duty
41. Where golfers begin
43. Make a mistake
44. Semitic sun god
46. Ancient Greek City
48. Having had the head cut off
52. A place to stay
53. Unwise
54. Most unnatural
56. Dennis is a notable one
57. Ointments
58. Students' exam
59. Leaked blood

CLUES DOWN
1. Brave
2. Act of awakening
3. Jest at
4. Sandwich store
5. Chapter of the Koran
6. Dismounted
7. Small vehicle
8. Irked
9. One who earns by disreputable dealings
10. Monetary unit of Samoa
11. Long, mournful lamentation
12. Weight unit
14. Alone, single
15. Decreases
18. Indicates beside
20. Worn by exposure to the weather
24. A body of traditions
26. College students' ultimate goal
28. Amino acid
30. Nasal mucus
32. US government entity
34. Swinish
35. Legislative body in Russia
37. Grant an exemption to
38. Put in advance
40. Satisfy
42. Felt
43. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls
45. Witnesses
47. Picnic invaders
49. Gasteyer and de Armas are two
50. Ancient person of Scotland
51. Cheerless
55. Unwell

Answers on page 23

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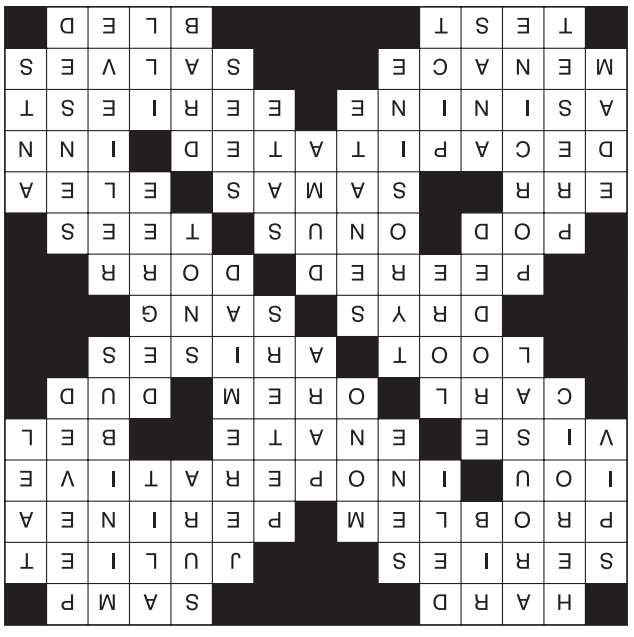
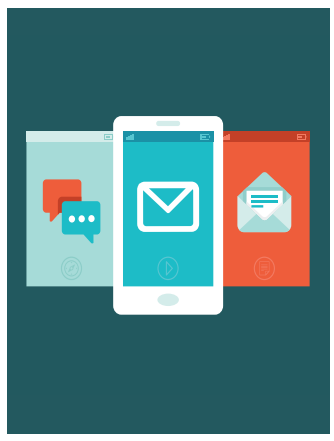


SUDOKU SOLUTION

5	4	9	1	2	3	8	7	6
6	3	2	5	8	7	9	4	1
7	8	1	4	6	9	3	2	5
4	7	5	8	3	2	6	1	9
2	9	8	6	1	5	4	3	7
3	1	6	9	7	4	2	5	8
8	6	4	3	5	1	7	9	2
9	5	7	2	4	8	1	6	3
1	2	3	7	9	6	5	8	4



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11:30am - 1:00pm

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If you are interested in joining our dedicated team of municipal professionals, applications **clearly marked "Application – Temporary, General Equipment Operator" may be submitted on or before 12:00 p.m, Monday, November 17th, 2025,** via mail, in person, fax or email. Interested applicants may submit their resume, including references, in confidence to:

Brittany McCaw, CAO/Treasurer
Municipality of Highlands East
P.O. Box 295, 2249 Loop Road
Wilberforce, ON K0L 3C0
E-Mail: bmccaw@highlandseast.ca

We thank all applicants for their interest but only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

The Municipality of Highlands East is an equal opportunity employer. Applicants requiring accommodation are asked to contact the CAO/Treasurer.

In accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, the information gathered will be used solely for candidate selection purposes only. Questions about this collection should be directed to Brittany McCaw, CAO/Treasurer.

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OBITUARIES

Helen Mills
Resident of Haliburton

It is with great love and the appreciation of a life very well lived that we announce the passing of Helen Mills on October 27, 2025. She passed away very peacefully at Highland Wood, Haliburton, in her 101st year.

Helen was predeceased by her beloved husband of 69 years, John Mills, and is survived by her children, Coulie, Doug, Karen, and Liz (Bruce), as well as grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and grand-dogs.

Helen was raised in St. Thomas and Windsor but lived her married life in Etobicoke with summers at Haliburton Lake. She enjoyed bridge with her special group and had an incredibly artistic eye, whether it was fashion, interior design, art, or culture. She was an avid reader and enjoyed the theatre and film. John's career allowed them to travel extensively, and she took full advantage of each destination to see some incredible sites. Well into her 90s, Helen's favourite places were Sherway Gardens, or any restaurant!

In the summers, she swam, tended her plants, and even water-skied into her 60s. She and John had a very special group of friends on Haliburton Lake, and those friendships have continued with the generations.

She loved to laugh and had a great sense of humour, and she was also an incredible listener – she looked you in the eye and made you feel like you were the only person in the room. She cared deeply about all those close to her. She was also incredibly kind. She cared about animals, and people less fortunate than she was. Every time she ventured into downtown Toronto, she would take money in a special zippered pouch to give to any unhoused people she came across. She could be overzealous and on one occasion, she pressed money into the palm of an executive that was just outside on a smoke break. She was extremely aware of how fortunate she was and wished the same for everyone.

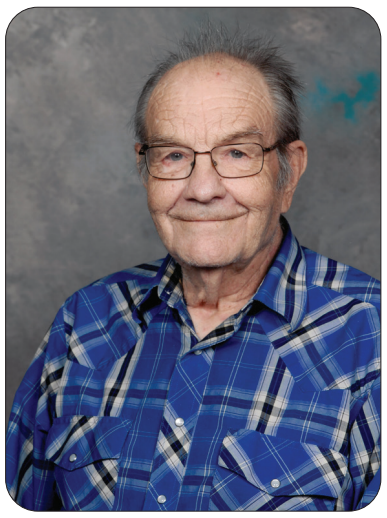
Helen and John provided a lovely life to their children.

Very special thanks to the many wonderful people at Gardens of Haliburton and, since spring 2024, Highland Wood. They are too many to name individually. All have been so kind and caring. Mom will miss her wine in a Dixie cup that was part of her routine at Highland Wood!

Private Funeral Arrangements

Community FUNERAL HOME
www.communityfuneralhomes.com

Funeral arrangements are private. As an expression of sympathy, donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation in Helen's memory would be appreciated by the family. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME**, 13523 Hwy #118, Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0 (705) 457-9209.



Barry Wilson

With deep Christlike love and gratitude for a life well lived, the West Guilford Baptist Church family of Barry Richard Wilson announces his peaceful passing into the waiting arms of Jesus our Lord and Saviour on Friday, October 31st, at the age of 83.

Barry was a conservationist. He spent countless hours studying, rescuing, and photographing wildlife. He was passionate about sharing his knowledge and gave many seminars and wrote many stories teaching others. He loved his Tim Horton large Triple Triples, blueberry pie, and a good game of crokinole, which he almost always won.

Barry will be fondly remembered by the many friends he made while being patiently and tenderly cared for by the staff and volunteers of Highland Wood during the past 2 years.

Barry will forever be remembered by all who knew him for his unique personality and passionate love of everything wildlife, especially his first love, the beaver.

Barry was more at home with animals than he was with people, and he struggled when he lost his independence and couldn't spend his time outside with his animal friends. But like his beaver friends who are known for their hard work and resilience, Barry has finished his race and has entered his eternal home that his Father God has prepared for him and is now free to spend his days enjoying God's perfect world prepared for those who have put their trust in Him.

Visitation & Funeral Service

Friends are invited to call at the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME**, 13523 Hwy. 118 Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0 (705) 457-9209 on Thursday afternoon, November 6, 2025, at 1 o'clock for a service in the Chapel (Visitation one hour prior). An Interment will take place the following day, Friday morning, November 7, at 11:00 am at the Marchmont Baptist Cemetery in Orillia. As an expression of sympathy, donations to West Guilford Baptist Church, Woodland Wildlife Sanctuary, or the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation - Highland Wood would be appreciated.

Community FUNERAL HOME
www.communityfuneralhomes.com

In Loving Memory of

ANDERSON, Terry

Passed away peacefully with his loving family by his side on Monday October 20, 2025 after a short but aggressive journey with cancer.

He leaves behind his beloved wife and best friend of 45 years Nancy Jackson, his loving daughter Jennifer and his cherished grandchildren, Nyah & Kai. Terry is survived by his children's mother Sharon Anderson. He will be fondly remembered by his nieces, nephews, and friends. Terry was predeceased by his darling daughter Jacqueline and his three younger brothers, Barry (Judy), Brian, and Robert (Lou). Terry was born and raised in Ottawa, and later moved to Toronto where he and Nancy had their careers before retiring to Haliburton, where they lived for 15 years until they moved to Niagara-on-the-Lake in 2016. Terry was his own man. He will be fondly remembered for his quiet, reflective manner and his love of nature and the arts. Terry could easily become the life of the party with his intelligent wit and his lively, occasionally quirky sense of humour. Terry had an insatiable interest in learning, especially about the inner soul and where people fit into the universe. He spent many hours reading, studying, and sharing ideas with his online interest groups. Terry pursued many passionate interests throughout his life, including classical music (while in Haliburton he hosted his classical music program on Canoe Radio), stone carving, billiards, the meaning of dreams, and Jungian analysis. Most recently, he devoted several years to the spiritual study of the Tarot, including the Qaballah, and the Tree of Life. Terry loved helping others with whom he felt an intuitive connection. He will be deeply missed. Cremation has taken place. A private family interment will take place at a later date at Niagara Lakeshore Cemetery. A celebration of Terry's life will take place in the spring. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to Newark Neighbours Food Bank and Thrift Store at 1534 Niagara Stone Road, Virgil, ON LOS 1T0. Memories, photos, and condolences may be shared at www.morganfuneral.com

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INSIDE THIS WEEK:

The Eau List
Oprah loves the same water that thousands of Mill Valley enthusiasts enjoy

The Last Question
From town water to a new municipal office in Wilberforce, candidates state their views

From Boy to Man
Bob White had to grow up quickly when he joined the Canadian Armed Forces in '43

THE ECHO
HALIBURTON COUNTY
Tuesday, November 7, 2006
Vol. 123 No. 43 $1.25 incl. GST

Changes make Silver Beach proposal more palatable

GREG HOEKSTRA
Staff Reporter

As their very last order of business, on Monday Dysart councillors took a giant step towards making the Silver Beach Lifestyle Community a reality by rezoning the property from tourist commercial to suburban residential.

After facing a barrage of concerns during last week's public meeting, the municipality worked diligently with the developer to address the bulk of concerns from neighbouring residents, and last-minute changes to the proposal certainly reflect that, Dysart Reeve Murray Fearrey told council.

"In particular, the most dramatic change is with the commercial areas, which were the most controversial and unacceptable to the adjoining property owners," said Fearrey. "The developer, in my opinion, was more gracious than most would have been and has pulled those commercial zonings altogether and allowed those to be used as part of the condominium concept."

Originally the plan had called for a total of 39 condominium units, with a section of land to be zoned for commercial uses. What seemed to irk residents, however, was that council was provided with only a list of potential uses (such as a bistro, spa, or massage therapy clinic), which meant council didn't know what specific uses it would be approving.

See Developer page 2

Dysart hopes to escape ballot blues

MARTHA PERKINS
Editor

A decision to stick with Canada Post for next week's municipal elections may have saved Dysart et al from having to sing the spoiled ballot blues.

While some municipalities have had as many as 25 per cent of the ballots submitted improperly, Dysart's CAO isn't expecting the same problem in her municipality.

Tammy McKelvey says that although council seriously looked at hiring a company called Data Fix to handle the mail-in ballots, it decided to once again hire Canada Post to provide the service.

Canada Post's choice of envelopes might have unexpectedly made her job a lot easier.

When people receive their ballot kit by mail, they're supposed to fill out their ballot, seal it in the secrecy envelop and then sign a declaration saying they are who they are and have a

See Almost page 6

Running for a win

It took more than a decade to earn bragging rights, but the HHSS Red Hawks are in the running for the Central Ontario championships after Saturday's 7-1 victory over Peterborough's Adam Scott Secondary School. Kieran Gilkody, #96, had the honour of scoring the last point in the low-scoring match. It was a sweet victory since Adam Scott has stymied the Red Hawks' aspirations to advance for the past two seasons. Details on page 14 and 15.

Lack of town water not a hindrance: Fearrey

GREG HOEKSTRA
Staff Reporter

Would Canadian Tire be coming to Haliburton, and not Minden, if only we had a town water system? Or would Tim Hortons be looking to buy prime real estate on Highland Street?

For years some have argued that a town water system would open the doors to a development boom in Haliburton village, but long-standing reeve Murray Fearrey says that's simply not the case.

"It's absolute nonsense to think that there are businesses not coming here because there's no town water," Fearrey says. "To say that's why there's no Tim Hortons here or no Canadian Tire, there's just no truth to that whatsoever."

Despite the fact that most water in Haliburton is drawn from wells, Fearrey says that neither the quantity nor quality of the town's water has ever been considered a hindrance by potential developers. Since the village is part of a sewage system, and there is very little farmland in the area, Haliburton's water table has maintained a high level of quality without contamination. And there's more than enough of it to go around, says Fearrey.

"Volumes of water have never been an issue in Haliburton;

See There's page 2

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